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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02208 011224Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 /060 W
----------022932 011232Z /53
O P 011144Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4765
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2208

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, SU, ET
SUBJECT: REPORT ON SUDANESE SEIZURE OF ETHIOPIAN TOWN

REF: STATE 152857

1. FIRST WE HEARD OF ALLEGED SEIZURE OF ETHIOPIAN TOWN BY SUDANESE FORCES WAS WHEN WE RECEIVED REFTEL FRIDAY NOON JULY 1. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS VERY SKEPTICAL. REGION OF ALLEGED ATTACK IS THINLY POPULATED MARSHLAND WHERE ACCORDING TO ALL INFO AVAILABLE TO US NO RPT NO REGULAR ARMY FORCES ARE STATIONED. IT IS AN AREA WHERE NUER AND OTHER TRIBES LIVE ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER. TRADITIONALLY CATTLE RUSTLING AND BANDITRY OCCUR AND AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER COOPERATE CLOSELY EVEN ALLOWING HOT PURSUIT OF BANDITS ACROSS BORDER. PERHAPS SUCH AN ACTION OCCURRED RECENTLY.

2. ON SUDAN SIDE OF BORDER, AND WE UNDERSTAND ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE AS WELL, PEOPLE ARE FAR REMOVED AND LITTLE CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF (NORTHERN) ARAB SUDANESE, ERITREANS AND THE LIKE. HOWEVER,
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SUDANGOV IS NERVOUS THAT ANSAR REBELS WILL USE AREA AS ONE FROM WHICH TO ENTER SUDAN EITHER TO CAUSE TROUBLE WITHIN COUNTRY OR ON THEIR WAY TO LIBYA.

3. FINALLY WE NOTE THAT OFFICIAL SUDANGOV POLICY IS THAT NO RPT NO SUDANESE TROOPS WILL CROSS BORDER

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INTO ETHIOPIA. THIS POLICY HAS BEEN TOLD TO US IN
PRECISE TERMS OFFICIALLY BY MINSTATE FONAFFS
AND AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL IS POLICY ACTUALLY OBSERVED
BY SUDANGOV. THUS REPORT OF REGULAR SUDANESE FORCES
CROSSING INTO TOWN OF BEGI IN WOLLEGA REGION ETHIOPIA
SEEMS DIFFICULT BELIEVE WITHOUT MORE AUTHORITATIVE
CORROBORATING EVIDENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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